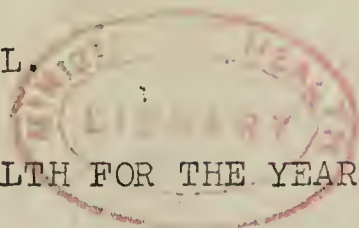


NORTHWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northwich Rural District Council.
Gentlemen,

I have the honour of placing before you my third Annual Report, being a report on the Health of your District for the year ended 31st December, 1941. The Ministry of Health has asked that this report should be confined to essential matters affecting the Public Health of the District during the year 1941.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area .. .. .	..	57,547 acres.
Population - Registrar-General's latest estimate of population..	..	30,850.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) ..	..	8,710.
Rateable value .. .. .	..	£154,282.
Sum represented by a penny rate .. .. .	..	£607.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	(Legitimate	457	243	214)	Birth rate per 1,000
	(Illegitimate	24	15	9	of the estimated
					resident
					population .. 15.59.
Stillbirths	(Legitimate	18	8	10)	Rate per 1,000 total
	(Illegitimate	1	-	1)	(live and still)
					Births .. 38.00.
Deaths		339	187	152	Death rate per 1,000
					of the estimated
					resident
					population .. 10.98.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	1	2.00
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	1	2.00
Total	2	4.00

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births ..	..	36.58.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	..	36.32.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	..	41.66.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ..	..	42.
" " Measles (all ages) ..	..	1.
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	..	4.
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	..	1.

CAUSES OF DEATH - 1941.

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	M.	F.	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	2	4
3. Scarlet Fever	-	1	1
4. Whooping Cough	2	2	4
5. Diphtheria	1	-	1
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	4	9
7. Other Tubercular Diseases	2	-	2
8. Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-
9. Influenza	3	4	7
10. Measles	-	1	1
11. Ac. Polio-myel: and Polio-enceph:	-	-	-
12. Ac: inf: enceph:	1	1	2
13. Cancer of b:cav: & oesoph: (M). uterus (F).	1	1	2
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	7	2	9
15. Cancer of Breast	-	8	8
16. Cancer of all other sites	16	7	23
17. Diabetes	1	2	3
18. Intra-cran: vasc: lesions	13	22	35
19. Heart Diseases	46	31	77
20. Other Circulatory Diseases	4	6	10
21. Bronchitis	13	10	23
22. Pneumonia	8	6	14
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1	3
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	-	2
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	1	1
26. Appendicitis	1	1	2
27. Other Digestive Diseases	9	3	12
28. Nephritis	12	6	18
29. Puer: & post-abortion: sepsis	-	1	1
30. Other Maternal Causes	-	1	1
31. Premature Birth	2	3	5
32. Congenital Debility and Malformations	4	3	7
33. Suicide	-	1	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents	3	-	3
35. Other Violent Causes	5	3	8
36. All Other Causes	22	18	40
	187	152	339

SECTION B. - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There is no change to report under this heading except that the Additional Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Dean) left the service of the Council on the 31st December, 1941.

SECTION C. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water - 23 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination by the Inspector during the year. One unsatisfactory report was received in respect of Recorder House, Crabtree Green, Oakmere. This unsatisfactory report brought forth the chlorination of the supply. During 1941 the Crowton Village Well was abandoned and an alternative supply obtained from the Council's mains. The unsatisfactory water supply from the wells serving Rushton and Utkinton and the inadequate supply for the Tarporley area remain unremedied, as no satisfactory alternative supplies are at the moment available.

(For security reasons the Ministry of Health requires that no detailed reference should be made to improvements or extensions of water supply or sewerage works, etc. but the Council will be fully aware of the Ministry's approval to the Joint Minor Scheme and of the good progress made during the year 1941 in this undertaking.)

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal - The drainage facilities of Rushton, Utkinton, Delamere, Oakmore, Wincham and Comberbach are still

in need of improvement. The position regarding the Weaverham - Northwich Road properties will be eased by the Council's decision to purchase a tumbril cart to be drawn as a trailer. Pending the construction of a main sewer this will ease the position where existing septic tanks and soakaway systems are found not to be functioning.

Public Cleansing - The routine work of refuse collection and the cleansing of pail closets proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year. There was no extension of this service.

Salvage of materials for war purposes - The public cleansing staff have done admirable work in this connection and returns compare exceedingly favourable with those of other districts.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Statement of Inspections made and Notices issued.

Nature of inspections made	Number	Informal Notices		Statutory Notices	
		Issued	Complied with	Issued	Complied with
1. Dwelling Houses (General Inspection)	127	56	53	-	-
2. Dwelling-houses (overcrowding)	11	4	3	-	-
3. Moveable Dwellings	3	1	1	-	-
4. Sanitary Accommodation to Dwellings	10	7	5	-	-
5. Drainage, Septic Tanks and Cesspools	112	63	45	-	-
6. Ditches and Watercourses	15	6	4	-	-
7. Offensive Accumulations	8	8	8	-	-
8. Keeping of Animals	2	2	2	-	-
9. Provision of Ashbins	22	22	18	-	-
10. Supervision of Refuse Collection	211	-	-	-	-
11. Supervision of Refuse Tips	24	-	-	-	-
12. Slaughterhouses	11	-	-	-	-
13. Bakehouses and other places where food is prepared	81	7	7	-	-
14. Dairies and Cowsheds	111	14	11	-	-
15. Factories etc.	6	-	-	-	-
16. Protection and Sampling of Water Supplies	25	-	-	-	-
17. Canal Boats	6	-	-	-	-
18. Infectious Diseases, Investigations & Disinfections	137	-	-	-	-
19. Schools, Inspection and Disinfection	49	-	-	-	-
20. Disinfestation of Premises	86	3	2	-	-
21. Deratisation of Premises	-	-	-	-	-
22. Smoke Observations	2	-	-	-	-
23. Miscellaneous	6	3	3	-	-
TOTALS	1,065	196	162	-	-

FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	6	-	-
Factories without mechanical power	-	-	-
Other premises	-	-	-
Totals	6	-	-

Outworkers: There are no outworkers premises in this district.

SECTION D. - HOUSING.

No houses under Housing Acts were demolished during the year.

It has been difficult during the year to keep up the general level of house property but on the whole the sanitary conditions of the majority of the houses of the District has been maintained.

SECTION E. - FOOD AND MEAT INSPECTION.

(a) Milk - During the year eight samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and four samples for the presence of tubercle bacilli. All but one of the samples were reported as satisfactory and in this case the affected animal was slaughtered.

(b) Meat - There are twenty-three slaughterhouses licensed under Section 57 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Owing to the operation of the undernoted Ministry of Food Orders:-

S.R. & O. 41, 1940 - "Livestock Restriction of Slaughtering",
January 13th, 1940.

S.R. & O. 1856, 1940 - "Livestock Restriction of Slaughtering"
October 19th, 1940.

no slaughtering is permitted in any of these.

By mutual arrangement the Rural Meat Inspectors assist the Northwich Urban Inspectors at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, Winnington, as and when their services are required.

Under Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, fifty-three slaughtermen hold licences to slaughter.

Under the Diseases of Animals Acts, thirty-eight suspected cases of Anthrax were reported, one of which was confirmed by the Veterinary Surgeons of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938. Under this Order no carcasses were examined or condemned.

(c) Routine examination of other Foods. During the year 81 shops and food preparing premises were visited.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(1) Apart from the occurrence of a mild outbreak of Measles and Whooping Cough the year 1941 passed off well. There was a reduction in the number of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria cases on the previous year. Of the 14 cases of Diphtheria recorded one case had received protective treatment three weeks previously and so had not had sufficient time to develop any protection against the disease. The one child who died from the disease Diphtheria had not received any protective treatment.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis),
during the year 1941.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	43	29	1
Diphtheria	14	13	1
Typhoid	2	2	-
Paratyphoid	2	2	-
Pneumonia	14	-	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	4	1
Erysipelas	5	1	-
Measles	121	1	1
Whooping Cough	99	4	4
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	3	2	4
Food Poisoning	3	-	-
Dysentery	2	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-

The beginning of the year 1941 saw the commencement of a successful "drive", jointly with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities, against Diphtheria. Such good progress was made that by the end of the year 3,873 children under 15 years of age had received a full course of protective treatment. The actual percentages of protected children by the end of the year were:-

under 5 years	30.8 per cent.
between 5-15 years	71.0 " "

It would be remiss of me not to express my full appreciation of the excellent assistance given during the year by all the local Medical Practitioners and the Teachers throughout the District. Their help has, without doubt, contributed materially to the success of the Scheme.

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for	Number submitted	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	108	12	96
Typhoid Bacilli	3	-	3
Dysentery	3	-	3

- (2) TUBERCULOSIS. The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1941

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	2	1	-	-	2	-
5 - 15 "	-	1	2	4	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 "	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
25 - 35 "	1	2	2	-	-	1	-	-
35 - 45 "	3	-	-	-	3	1	-	-
45 - 55 "	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	10	4	6	5	5	4	2	-

Number of patients on register at 31.12.40 - 197.
Number of patients on register at 31.12.41 - 215.

56 Sputum specimens were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year; nine being reported on as positive.

(3) SCABIES AND VERMINOUS INFESTATION.

The Ministry of Health's Scabies Order 1941, received in November of that year, was given careful consideration by the Council and as a result of arrangements made jointly with the other Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities 4 Cleansing Centres were set up promptly in the joint area and cleansing work on a vigorous scale started in January 1942.

The practice of home disinfection in cases of Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis) was continued during the year. All the Schools in the District were disinfected at least once during the year.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1942.